

2004 Indian Country Report



Paul K. Charlton
United States Attorney ~ District of Arizona

THE ARIZONA U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

The United States Attorney is appointed by the President and confirmed by the United States Senate. Generally, each U.S. Attorney is responsible for prosecuting all offenses against the United States and defending all civil actions, suits or proceedings brought against the United States. There are 94 United States Attorney's offices nationwide. The Arizona U.S. Attorney's Office has responsibility for federal offenses and to defend civil actions throughout Arizona. Routinely, this office has had one of the largest Indian Country criminal and civil caseloads in the nation.

The Arizona U.S. Attorney's Office consists of four offices, Phoenix, Tucson, Yuma (temporary) and Flagstaff. A satellite office in Yuma addresses drug and immigration offenses arising in the surrounding area. A proposal to make this office permanent is pending in Washington, D.C. An office in Flagstaff was permanently established in 2002 to serve as an "intake" or charging unit for all Northern Arizona federal offenses, including Indian Country offenses occurring north of Yavapai County. Assistant U.S. Attorneys, or "AUSAs" in the Phoenix Violent Crime and Anti-Terrorism Group, and in the Tucson Violent Crime Group are responsible for prosecuting Indian Country crimes pursuant to the Major Crime Act, the Assimilative Crimes Statute and the Federal Juvenile Delinquency Act arising in Indian Country. All federal case prosecutions and civil litigation matters are also governed by the Federal Rules of Criminal and Civil Procedure, and the U.S. Department of Justice Policies and Guidelines.

The U.S. Attorney is a member of the Native American Issues Subcommittee of the U.S. Attorney General's Advisory Committee. The Subcommittee is comprised of U.S. Attorneys with large Indian Country jurisdiction. The Subcommittee members provide advice, information and experience to the Office of the Attorney General on a variety of criminal and civil issues affecting the U.S. Department of Justice's responsibilities in Indian Country. Additionally, the U.S. Attorney has discretion to implement office policy to address specific crimes or matters affecting the district (Arizona). In addition to his national responsibilities, the U.S. Attorney participates in numerous local and state law enforcement organizations and working groups to develop comprehensive law enforcement strategies for Arizona.